

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for facilitating an open simulation between a first simulation engine and at least  
5 a second simulation engine, wherein said first and second simulation engines are  
communicatively coupled together with a simulation portal over a computer network, said  
method comprising the steps of:

creating said simulation portal openly accessible to said first and second simulation  
engines connected to said network;

10 accepting a connection to said simulation portal by each of said first simulation  
engine and said second simulation engine;

receiving a simulation output file from said first simulation engine;

storing said simulation output file as part of a simulation in a data storage area  
associated with said simulation portal; and

15 providing said simulation output file upon request to said second simulation engine.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said creating said simulation portal step further comprises  
the steps of:

creating said simulation portal using XML; and

20 configuring said simulation portal to allow connections from each of said simulation  
engines connected to said network.

3. The method of claim 1 whereby said data storage area is a database.

4. The method of claim 1 whereby said data storage area is a UNIX mailbox file.
5. The method of claim 1 whereby said data storage area is a hierarchical file system.
6. The method of claim 1 whereby said data storage area manages simulation output files for multiple simulations running contemporaneously.
- 5 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said accepting a connection step further comprises:  
verifying said connection with a username and password combination.
8. The method of claim 1 whereby communications between said simulation engines and said simulation portal uses a proprietary format.
9. A system for performing simulations wherein a first simulation engine and at least a second  
10 simulation engine are communicatively coupled together with a simulation portal over a computer network, said system comprising:  
means for creating said simulation portal;  
means for accepting connections to said simulation portal from each of said first simulation engine and said second simulation engine;  
15 means for receiving a simulation output files from said first simulation engine;  
means for storing said simulation output file as part of a simulation in a data storage area associated with said simulation portal; and  
means for providing said simulation output file upon request to said second simulation engine.

10. The system of claim 9 whereby said means for creating said simulation portal include creating said simulation portal in XML.

11. The system of claim 9 whereby said means for accepting connections includes verifying said connection with a username and password combination.

5 12. A computer program product for facilitating an open simulation between a first simulation engine and at least a second simulation engine, wherein said first and said second simulation engines are communicatively coupled with a simulation portal over a computer network, said computer program product comprising:

instructions for making said simulation portal openly accessible to said simulation engines over said computer network;

instructions for accepting a connection to said simulation portal from each of said first simulation engine and said second simulation engine;

instructions for receiving a simulation output file uploaded from said first simulation engine;

instructions for storing said simulation output file uploaded from said first simulation engine as part of a simulation in a data storage area associated with said simulation portal; and

instructions for providing said simulation output file to said second simulation engine upon request.

13. The computer program product of claim 12 wherein said instructions for storing further comprise instructions for storing said simulation output file in a database.

14. The computer program product of claim 12 wherein said instructions for storing further comprise instructions for storing said simulation output file in a UNIX mailbox file.
15. The computer program product of claim 12 wherein said instructions for storing further comprise instructions for storing said simulation output file in a hierarchical file system.
- 5 16. The computer program product of claim 12 wherein said instructions for storing further comprise instructions for managing simulation output files for multiple simulations running contemporaneously.
- 10 17. The computer program product of claim 12 wherein said instructions for accepting a connection further comprise instructions for verifying said connection with a username and password combination.
18. The computer program product of claim 12 further comprising instructions for communicating with said simulation portal in a proprietary format.

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19. A method for optimizing the components in a system design comprising the steps of:
- creating a simulation portal that is openly accessible over a computer network;
  - publishing a system design specification model;
  - accepting a connection to said simulation portal from each of a plurality of design
- 5 teams communicatively coupled together with said simulation portal over said computer network;
- receiving a simulation output file from at least one of said design teams connected to said simulation portal;
  - storing said simulation output files as part of a simulation in a data storage area
- 10 associated with said simulation portal;
- providing at least one of said simulation output files to at least one of said design teams connected to said simulation portal; and
  - selecting the optimal components for said system design based on a comparison of said simulation output files.
- 15 20. The method of claim 19 wherein said accepting a connection step further comprises verifying said connection with a username and password combination.